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**PRESS RELEASE**

**(Hartford) STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE GARVIN G. AMBROSE ANNOUNCES THE THEME OF THE 2013 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK: “New Challenges – New Solutions,” WHILE HIGHLIGHTING AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS OF THE BOSTON MARATHON INCIDENT**

State Victim Advocate Garvin G. Ambrose announced the theme for the upcoming National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW), which is celebrated nationwide from April 21–27, 2013. This year’s theme is “New Challenges – New Solutions,” and is appropriate considering the constant barrage of tragic events throughout the country, including the most recent act of terrorism this week in Boston, MA.

“For our neighbors in Boston and those affected by this act of cowardice, we express our most heartfelt sympathy. We recognize that the healing process will take some time, but remain assured that the resilience of the American people will persevere” stated Ambrose.

Ambrose further stated that “[I]n the wake of yet another unfathomable tragedy it is important to recognize that a national event such as National Crime Victims Rights Week is a way to unite and mobilize in an attempt to diminish further instances of terror by developing new solutions to fighting crime. Such tragedies remind us that violence can occur at any moment and to any of us, but also reminds us that we must continue to live life without succumbing to the fear that these acts of terror intend.”

Each April since 1981, the Office for Victims of Crime, also known as OVC, has helped lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRW by promoting victims’ rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. We urge you to take part in events throughout your communities, or to develop your own events in recognition of NCVRW.

Understanding that there are a multitude of service providers and services available to those victims of the Boston Marathon tragedy seeking assistance, we have attempted to simplify your search by compiling a list of those services that we know of, and have made them available at the OVA’s website and on our Facebook page.

**Website:** [www.ct.gov/ova](http://www.ct.gov/ova);

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/StateOfCtOfficeOfTheVictimAdvocate>

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